

**RFP Guidelines**  
**Suicide Prevention Program**  
part of the  
**Mississippi Department of Mental Health**  
**Oil Spill Recovery**  
**Behavioral Health Grant Program**

<b>Funding Opportunity Title:</b>	MSDMH Oil Spill Recovery Suicide Prevention Program
<b>Due Date for Applications:</b>	July 15, 2011
<b>Anticipated Total Available Funding:</b>	\$125,000
<b>Estimated Number of Awards:</b>	Up to 5
<b>Estimated Award Amount:</b>	Up to \$25,000 per recipient
<b>Cost Sharing/Match Required:</b>	No
<b>Length of Project Period:</b>	Award date to June 30, 2012
<b>Eligible Applicants:</b>	Eligible applicants are programs that serve individuals affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill

**Purpose:**

The Deepwater Horizon's Oil Spill has caused emotional, cognitive and behavioral responses to the spill, as well as induced stress in individuals, families and communities in Mississippi. Citizens of Mississippi and those dependent on the coastal area for their livelihoods are and may continue to be adversely affected by the oil spill for years to come. The oil spill has created much tension and apprehension about the future in our Gulf Coast region, particularly Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties. The uncertainty and long-term impact on economic livelihood have increased the need for suicide prevention.

The purpose of this program is to support effort to develop and implement youth suicide prevention and early intervention strategies, grounded in public/private collaboration. Such efforts must involve one of the following: public/private collaboration among youth-serving institutions and agencies and should include schools, educational institutions, juvenile justice systems, foster care systems, substance abuse and mental health programs, and other child and youth supporting organizations.

**Goals:**

The Suicide Prevention Program funded through the Mississippi Department of Mental Health Oil Spill recovery Program supports the goals of the National Suicide Prevention Plan and will:

- increase the number of persons in youth serving organizations such as schools, foster care systems, juvenile justice programs, trained to identify and refer youth at risk for suicide
- increase the number of health, mental health, and substance abuse providers trained to assess, manage and treat youth at risk for suicide
- increase the number of youth identified as at risk for suicide
- increase the number of youth at risk for suicide referred for behavioral health care services
- increase the number of youth at risk for suicide who receive behavioral health care services
- increase the promotion of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the Oil Spill Distress Helpline

Applications responsive to this Request for Proposal must implement evidence-based or best practices that will create or expand capacity to address the needs of youth at high-risk as a result of the British Petroleum Inc., Deepwater Horizon oil spill and resulting environmental and economic disaster.

**Outline of Need**

The oil spill has negatively impacted the environment, destroying the availability of natural resources and a way of life which will likely cause behavioral health issues to rise in the affected area and an increase in youth having suicidal thoughts and having an actual plan for suicide. This disaster and its longevity and uncertainty will lead to these effects growing over time. Without early detection and intervention, a disaster of this type will have lasting effects.

Across the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the impacted population is already exhibiting early signs of increased substance abuse and dependence, psychiatric disorders, suicide, and familial breakdown, including divorce and abuse. The disaster represents a loss of social and economic support for people, causing anger and resentment toward each other and outsiders (Palinkas, Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, 2009). Given the immediate and expected long-term impact of this disaster on the behavioral health, specifically increased risk for suicide, of the youth in the affected areas, the need for immediate suicide prevention is crucial to confronting the long-lasting crisis on the coast.

**Through Suicide Prevention Grants, The Mississippi Department of Mental Health will:**

- Directly fund organizations to expand suicide prevention services to youth and individuals in youth serving organizations affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
- Give priority to those organizations that provide outreach and provide culturally competent services to underserved and minority populations and neighborhoods affected by the spill.
- Require programs to meet all applicable fiscal and programmatic standards in the Mississippi Department of Mental Health Operational Standards for Mental Health Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Community Service Providers. Standards can be reviewed at the following website: <http://www.dmh.ms.gov/pdf/2011%20Operational%20Standards%20final%20version.pdf>.
- Acknowledge that this program is made possible by the initial contribution of funds to the Department to begin a partnership between BP and the State to address behavioral health needs in the State following the Deepwater Horizons oil spill. If additional funds become available, existing programs will receive first consideration for those funds.
- Provide technical assistance to providers related to suicide prevention strategies.
- Require a Timeline: All grant funds must be expended by June 30, 2012. Grant agreements will be formalized and funds will be forwarded to recipients based on criteria and timelines established in the grant agreements. Grant programs must show how program will begin phase-down or show sustainability efforts during the period of April 2012-June 2012 if requested award extends to grant end date of June 30, 2012.

**Funding Priorities: Projects, Services and Activities To Be Funded**

Applications for the Suicide Prevention Program can propose services of the following types:

- Develop and implement youth suicide early intervention and prevention strategies in schools, educational institutions, juvenile justice systems, substance abuse programs, primary care, mental health programs, foster care systems, and other child and youth support organizations. Support public and private nonprofit organizations actively involved in

the development and continuation of State-sponsored Statewide or tribal youth suicide early intervention and prevention strategies.

- Provide support to institutions of higher education to coordinate or implement youth suicide early intervention and prevention strategies.

### **Organizations Eligible to Apply**

- Applicants must be incorporated in Mississippi and have an established office located in Mississippi
- Applicant or collaborating organization(s) must have experience working with people impacted by disasters, either directly or in partnership(s) with other nonprofits or public agencies included in the proposed project
- Award recipients that are not a certified Mississippi Department of Mental Health program must complete the attached application to be certified as a DMH/Grant program in order to receive funds
  - If this certification is needed, DMH/G application can be found as an attachment to this document.
  - Time-limited Certification will be awarded only for the duration of the grant
  - The fee for application will be waived by the Department. If sustainability plan requires continued certification, the program must reapply
  - If needed, the DMH/G application must be submitted with the proposal

### **Funding Period and Grant Amounts**

- Funds must be expended in full by June 30, 2012.
- Grants may be awarded for any length of time not exceeding the June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 expenditure deadline.
- The total amount of funds requested can not exceed \$25,000.

### **RFP Required Components**

- **Abstract** includes the organization requesting the grant, the amount requested and the proposed duration of the grant. An overview description of the proposed project, populations to be served and scope of services should be included in this section. The use of fiscal agents or collaborating organizations should be noted here.

- **Statement of Need (15 points)** includes an organizational description of no more than one page that should include history of the organization and its ongoing programs. Please include organization's experience and success with services proposed, and/or populations and communities to be served through the proposed project, including length of time providing such services. Description of the population(s) to be served with special attention to how they were impacted by the Oil Spill, any relevant demographic data, estimated numbers to be served, and how the proposed target population relates to the applicant organization's pre-spill client population. Description of the behavioral health issue(s) or need(s) of this targeted population and how these needs have been assessed or documented. This may also include description of current demand with supporting information about service requests, clients served, etc.
- **Project Description (35 points)** includes how the program/service serves individuals in underserved, disadvantaged, or minority populations as well as how the project will address the overall goals beginning on page 1. Description of how the proposed services address the needs of the target populations. Please describe chosen modalities and justification of their efficacy with the population to be served and why grant funds are required to support these services. If this proposal represents a new service for the applicant organization, please include a timeline and plan for the startup phase. If partners or collaborative agencies are proposed; describe their roles in this project, as well as roles and responsibilities of key project management and service delivery staff. Include how the staff has experience with target population and has the skills to implement the proposed model of service. Address strategies for responding to changing demand on services and/or plans for "sun-setting" services. Description of other funding streams and plans for sustainability, if applicable, when grant funds are no longer available.
- **Evaluation and Program Design (20 points)** includes measurable outcomes and plans for monitoring progress toward identified outcomes (items such as number served, service provided, location of service, etc)
- **Budget Summary (15 points)** of one to two paragraphs should include the total project budget, a brief description of the major expense areas (i.e. salaries, consulting fees, event expenses, etc.) and any additional funding pending or received for the proposed time period.
- **Adherence to Proposal Guidelines (15 points)**
- **Attachments:**
  - Detailed program budget.
  - List of current major funding sources and funding amounts.
  - Bios or resumes of key staff.
  - Letter from the Internal Revenue Service determining nonprofit status.

- List of Board of Directors and their affiliations.
- Other information the applicant organization feels is pertinent to understanding the quality and nature of the proposed project(s) and its constituency, including any relevant summary reports and/or quantifiable data on previously funded service or efficacy studies if appropriate.

### **Review & selection process**

Proposals will be reviewed on the basis of the following criteria:

- The extent to which proposed project(s) addresses the RFP requirements;
- The extent to which proposed project(s) addresses those directly affected the Oil Spill;
- The model upon which the program or services is based and how the model fits with best practices for stated needs and outcomes, evidence-based or evidence-informed practices are preferred;
- Special consideration will be given to those programs that show collaboration with other service providers to ensure continuity of care;
- Evidence of past success with similar types of services or programs with target population;
- Experience of staff with the targeted populations and affected communities, and demonstration of the skills to provide the proposed model of service;
- Achievability of proposed objectives for the funding period and sound plans for tracking the progress of such objectives;
- Extent to which collaboration with or accessing other community resources has been incorporated into the project design to enhance skills and knowledge, or to expand services to targeted populations;
- Service design and proposed staff reflect sensitivity to the culture of those to be served;
- Outreach to underserved, disadvantaged, and minority populations;
- For school programs, applicant must include letter of support from target school or school district;
- The applicant organization must be well managed, fiscally responsible, able to comply with all grant requirements. If any approved proposal is viewed as not meeting grant requirements, seen as being unable to complete the project or is misusing grant funds, reimbursement may be terminated at that time;

- The applicant organization must conduct itself in an ethical manner and all actions performed under the grant must be conducted in the same manner;

A panel of reviewers will review the proposals and make funding recommendations to the MS Department of Mental Health. Final approval of grant awards will be made by the Department of Mental Health. In addition, a site visit may be considered to verify services offered or capacity to deliver proposed services as well as quality of services.

### **Submission Process and Formatting Requirements**

Applications must be submitted electronically in order to expedite this process:  
*Apply using a Microsoft Word version of the application*

Proposal narratives should **not exceed 10 pages in length using a font of Times New Roman 12, single line spacing, and all margins (left, right, top, and bottom) at least one inch each.** Additional information offering details may be included as attachments.

**Proposals should be submitted via email to [scott.sumrall@dmh.state.ms.us](mailto:scott.sumrall@dmh.state.ms.us) no later than 5:00 p.m. July 15th, 2011.**

### **Grant Recipient Requirements:**

Organizations awarded grants are expected to comply with the following:

Submission of quarterly grant reports using a standard format and responding to questions to be provided with the grant award letter, format and timeline will be provided at award.

All awareness activities must support the goals and messaging of the "Shatter the Silence/Think Again" Campaign.

Provide method of evaluation to include measurable outcomes and plans for monitoring progress toward identified outcomes (items such as number served, service provided, location of service, etc)

Any publicity regarding this grant should include an acknowledgement that the project was supported by a "Behavioral Health Grant from the Mississippi Department of Mental Health." Public announcements and releases about the grant award must be coordinated with the Department of Mental Health.

Grantees must maintain documentation of current licensure for all professionally licensed staff and retention of financial records. Audit requirements will be outlined in grant agreement.

If any approved proposal is viewed as not meeting grant requirements, seen as being unable to complete the project or is misusing grant funds. Reimbursement may be terminated at that time.

All other requirements are at the discretion of the Department of Mental Health and partners to ensure stewardship of the funds, accountability and sound project management.